GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3300
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008
PER CAPITA AVAILABILITY OF LAND
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita land availability in the country has declined;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted/ proposed to be conducted to determine the reasons for such decline;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (e): As per various quinquennial Agriculture Censuses conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1970-71, 1976-77, 1980-81, 1985-86, 1990-91, 1995-96 and 2000-01, the average size of operational holdings in the country was 2.28 hectares, 2.00 hectares, 1.84 hectares, 1.69 hectares, 1.55 hectares, 1.41 hectares and 1.33 hectares respectively, which shows that the average size of the operational holding declined by about 42 per cent in 2000- 01 over 1970-71.

While the number of operational holdings increased from 71.0 million in 1970-71 to 119.9 million in 2000-01, the operated area decreased from 162.1 million hectares in 1970-71 to 159.4 million hectares in 2000-01 leading to decline in the average size of operational holdings. The decline in the operated area has been attributed to conversion of land for urbanization/industrialization or transfer of land to meet the requirement of non-agricultural purposes.